

## JULIUS AND GRETE



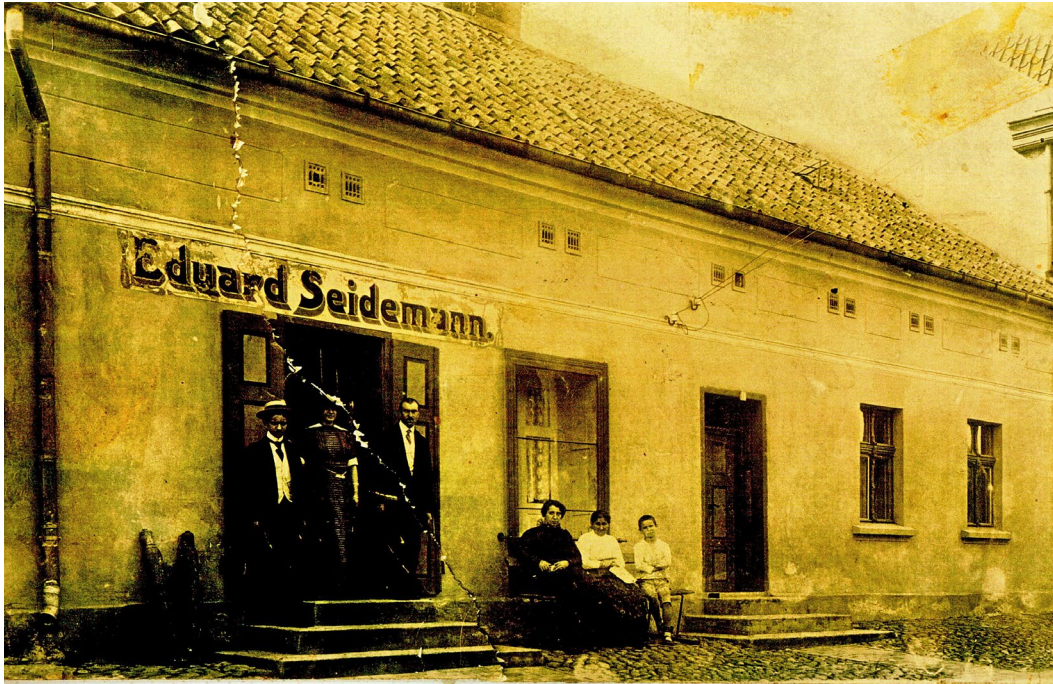
Julius came from a big family of German Jews. We don't know how long the family was in Germany, but they probably lived there for many generations. They came a region of the country known as Ostpreußen .. East Prussia

After Germany lost the First World War, part of the country, West Prussia was given to Poland. The Eastern half remained part of Germany. So western Prussia (sometimes called the Polish Corridor) separated East Prussia from the main part of Germany.)



Julius mother Fredricka Schlochauer and his father Eduard were apparently from the East Prussian town of Johannesburg. Once married they moved to another town in Ostpreußen called Biala where Eduard made vinegar from wheat and Fredricka had her children.





BIALA GERMANY (EAST PRUSSIA) THE EDUARD SEIDEMANN STORE



Julius and a few brothers were drafted into the German army during the First World War. Julius was sent to the front, and was wounded in the head shortly after he arrived. A head wound meant an automatic discharge and though the injury was minor, Julius was sent home.

After the First World War, after Prussia was officially carved up, sections that once belonged to Imperial Russia became the battle ground for small militias of Poles, Ukrainians, and Russians. There were roaming gangs with guns. It was time for the family to leave East Prussia.

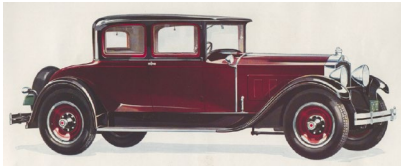




The Seidemmanns moved to Berlin. We aren't sure how long they lived in the capital but we know that Hannah and Frieda were married in

Berlin, and Fredricka died there in 1919 at age 57, and she was buried in the Weissensee cemetery.

After the war a few of Julius' older brothers went to the industrial Ruhr valley, to the growing town of Bochum in western Germany. They opened retail men's clothing stores and were successful. Later Julius moved to Bochum where he joined his brothers in business. He proved to be an intelligent and successful business man.



He acquired enough money for an

automobile. (He owned the first Packard in town. It was chauffer driven.)

He had a girlfriend Hede. She was tall blonde, and elegant.



She had 2 dachshunds: Fritzi and Fritz  
Julius became a favorite uncle to nephews and nieces.

The family had maids. The cook was Kokacha. Frau Niewald worked for the family and later came to St. Louis to help care for Marion.

## THEY TOOK VACATIONS.

### *The North Sea 1923*

Then there was a depression: People were out of work. And Hitler took power  
2 brothers died of strep throat, Herman and Morris. They were buried in Bochum.

In 1935 the Nazis enacted the Nuremberg laws. A non Jew who co habited with a Jew could be arrested. Julius girl friend Hede was sent to England.

In September 1937 Julius met Grete in the synagogue on Rosh Hashanah. He was smitten. The courtship was brief. They married 5 weeks later, in November 1937.



Grete's family was from Augsburg Germany. Their German roots extended back to the

time of Martin Luther.

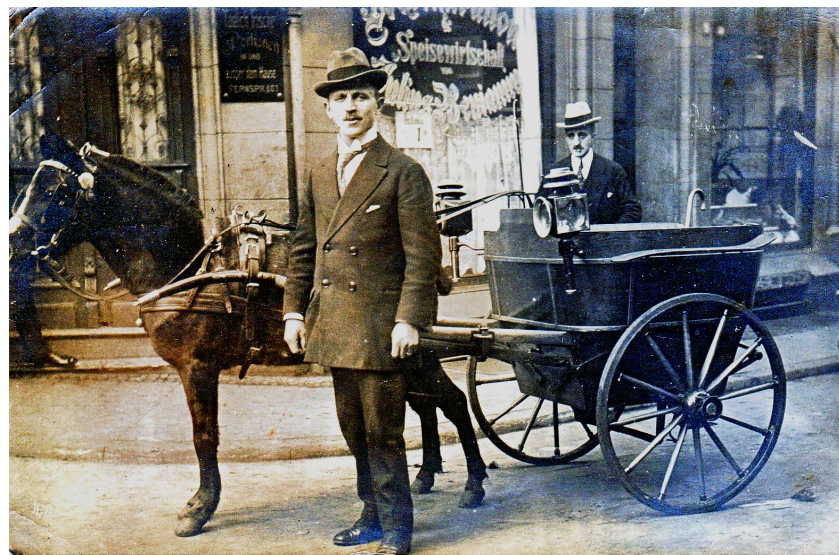




Cilly, Grete's mother, was the daughter of a cattle dealer named Hesekeil Buxbaum. He was born in Ernsbach on Dec 9, 1848 and died in Ohringen on Dec 20<sup>th</sup> 1920. Cilly's mother was Treinele Theresa Oppenheimer. She was born in Bavaria in 1852, bore and raised 17 children, and died in 1917. Cilly married Bernard Benjamin (a horse Butcher) from Bochum. Their only child, Grete was born on April 16, 1911.



Grete  
age 15.





Six of Cilly's siblings fought for the Kaiser in the First World War and remarkably all survived the war. The Buxbaum brothers and Hesekeil shortly after World War One



Cilly's sister, left and Cilly right in costume

HANSIE GRETE LOTAR





Mary Grete with Hans Cohen

Mary Pushkanzer was Grete's best friend and a cousin. She died in holocaust.



In 1940 Germany conquered Holland. Shortly thereafter Jews were excluded from jobs and schools. Jews were isolated to certain neighborhoods, and in April 1942 "Jews were required to wear the Star of David that said "JOOD" when in public." In June 1942 the Nazis started sending Jews to Westerbork and work camps in the East. ..



**...MARY GRETE WITH FRIENDS NEW YEARS**



**Mary, Grete with friends new year 1937; Grete Mary teenagers**



**Cilly's sister**







**Buxbaum  
brothers 1930s  
Grete before the  
war**



**Pisz** [piʂ] (until 1946 [German](#): *Johannisburg*, [Polish](#): *Jańsbork*) is a [town](#) in the [Warmian-Masurian Voivodeship](#) in [Poland](#). With a population of 19,328 (2004), it is the seat of [Pisz County](#). Pisz is located at the junction of [Lake Roś](#) and the [Pisa River](#).(Ostpreussen)The official German name of the town was Johannsburg, while the Polish-speaking residents referred to it as *Jańsbork*. Its early growth owed much to the residents' skill in [beekeeping](#), and it was located on trade routes leading to [Gdańsk](#) and to the [Vistula](#) and [Narew](#) Rivers. It became part of [Ducal Prussia](#) in 1525 and [Brandenburg-Prussia](#) in 1618.

During [World War II](#), Johannsburg was 70% destroyed by fighting and occupation by the [Soviet Red Army](#). At war's end in 1945, it was transferred from German to Polish control according to the [Potsdam Agreement](#) and officially renamed *Pisz* in 1946. The name Pisz comes from the [Old Prussian](#) word *pisa* ("swamp"), owing to the muddy water from nearby [Lake Roś](#). The remaining German-speaking part of the town's populace was [expelled](#) and replaced with [Poles](#).



**Marion's grandfather Bernard Benjamin and family.**

